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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,185	07/29/2003	Yezdi Dordi	AMAT/2622.D1/CMP/ECP/RKK	9224
44257	7590	08/25/2005	EXAMINER	
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. 3040 POST OAK BOULEVARD, SUITE 1500 HOUSTON, TX 77056			WONG, EDNA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1753	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER

20050823

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

RE: Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 12, 2005 has been entered.

Receipt is acknowledged of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) and a submission (= Preliminary Amendment), filed on August 12, 2005. The submission, however, is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because:

Newly submitted claims 29-48 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

The invention originally claimed was directed to a method for electroplating a metal. Newly submitted claims 29-45 are directed to an apparatus for processing a semiconductor substrate, and newly submitted claims 46-48 are directed to a method for processing a substrate. None of the newly submitted claims are directed to the originally claimed invention.

706.07(h) Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Practice

37 CFR 1.114 Request for continued examination recites:

35 U.S.C. 132(b) provides for continued examination of an application at the request of the applicant (request for continued examination or RCE) upon payment of a fee, without requiring the applicant to file a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). To implement the RCE practice, 37 CFR 1.114 provides a procedure under which an applicant may obtain continued examination of an application in which prosecution is closed (e.g., the application is under final rejection or a notice of allowance) by filing a submission and paying a specified fee. >Applicants cannot file an RCE to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined as a matter of right (i.e., applicant cannot switch inventions). See 37 CFR 1.145. Any newly submitted claims that are directed to an invention that is independent and distinct from the invention previously claimed will be withdrawn from consideration and not entered. An RCE is not the filing of a new application. Thus, the Office will not convert an RCE to a new application such as an application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b) or a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d).<

Since the submission appears to be a bona fide attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office action, applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a

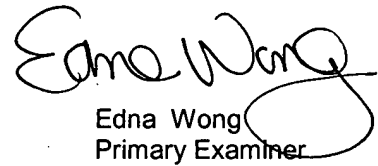
complete reply. This shortened statutory period for reply supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action. This time period may be extended pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edna Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EW
August 23, 2005


Edna Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1753